



State Senator

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DID YOU KNOW?

Protect yourself from the West Nile Virus by learning the facts about this disease. For information visit: <http://www.cdc.gov>

The Michigan Department of Transportation maintains a web site that features a list of lane closures and a comprehensive list of construction sites. The Web site is located at: <http://www.mdot.state.mi.us/laneclosure>

Travel Michigan offers a free e-mail newsletter and ideas for Michigan vacation trips. Sign-up by visiting: <http://travel.michigan.org>

WORKING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

This year we have targeted ways to make common-sense, basic services more accessible to Michigan families. Among the bills we took action on during this session include measures to ensure Michigan remains at the forefront of true election reform, guaranteeing and protecting the rights of all voters.

- ▶ Implemented the Help America Vote Act, a federal law that strengthens the election process by improving voting systems and making it easier for disabled Americans and military personnel to vote.
- ▶ Passed legislation to ensure residents are aware of voting dates and save taxpayers money by consolidating elections to four specific dates each year.
- ▶ Promoted abstinence education in our schools.
- ▶ Required school districts and public school academies to create a parent involvement plan.
- ▶ Approved a bill to eliminate the sales tax for individuals who receive donated vehicles from charitable organizations.
- ▶ Made Michigan roads safer by prohibiting the use of traffic-signal controllers by unauthorized persons.



RECEIVE E-LEGISLATIVE UPDATES!

If you would like to receive periodic legislative updates via email, please send a short note to senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov. Electronic mail is an inexpensive and convenient method to transmit information to interested citizens.

WORKING TODAY FOR MICHIGAN'S TOMORROW LEGISLATIVE REPORT

State Senator

Bruce Patterson

Serving the 7th District

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dear Friends:

The Senate is meticulously planning for the future of our communities, the protection of our families and the conservation of our natural resources – through solid legislation. During this legislative session, we are addressing the challenges faced by Michigan workers and job providers. Our comprehensive JOBS Action Plan lays the foundation to create new jobs, save existing jobs and promote a more competitive business climate in our state. The plan serves as our pledge to fight for every job in the state.

In addition to our economic growth initiatives, this legislative session has been dedicated to improving consumer protection and keeping Michigan communities safe. I am very proud of our work this year – and promise to continue working hard to ensure that your family is safe.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and the families of the 7th District. Please contact my office with your ideas, questions and concerns by calling me toll-free at 1-(866) 262-7307 or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Bruce Patterson
State Senator
7th District

DID YOU KNOW?

Senator Patterson has an updated Web site available to help residents and families stay in touch with the activities of state government. For bill searches, filing comments and ordering publications, go to: www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson

The Michigan Historical Center has the Kids' Stuff web site dedicated to teaching children the history of Michigan through activities, projects and documents. It is located at: www.michigan.gov/hal

You can learn how to conserve gasoline by using the information located at: www.michigan.gov/mda. Click on **State Efforts to Protect Gasoline Purchasers**.



ELECTRIC RELIABILITY STANDARDS

It was just over one year ago that residents of Southeast Michigan, together with millions of others, experienced the largest electrical blackout in North American history. I have not forgotten the concern generated by this event, and recently introduced legislation to establish electric supply reliability standards. As chair of the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy, I have held a series of public hearings on the legislation. We will be holding further hearings to address this important issue.



Senator Bruce Patterson welcomed Gary Dillon and Patricia Brand to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy to talk about Public Act 141 and how it has impacted local school districts. Dillon is president of Dillon Energy Services and Brand works for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as executive director for Business Services.

FOCUSING ON JOBS

The Senate is focused on making good-paying jobs available to every Michigan worker. We want to foster job creation and spur economic development in our communities.

These bills have become law and are already helping our communities:

- ▶ Forestry Management Package – passed measures to implement forest management changes and improve the health of Michigan's forests.
- ▶ Tool & Die Industry – provided tax relief to revitalize an industry that has been hard hit with job losses from overseas competition.
- ▶ High-tech and life sciences industry assistance – promoted Michigan workers and resources through the creation of venture capital investment tax credits.
- ▶ Established a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the clean up of abandoned brownfield sites.

- ▶ Expedited the 2002 voter-approved Clean Water Bond, PA 396 of 2002, that I sponsored. This will allow communities to start critical sewer projects sooner.
- ▶ Reauthorized the Michigan Economic Growth Authority to continue as the state's main tax-incentive granting authority.
- ▶ Expanded the use of private labs for state business by creating a state-lab accreditation program.
- ▶ Red Tape Reduction Package – established firm deadlines for issuing permits and licenses issued to businesses in Michigan.
- ▶ Promoted small businesses with tax exemptions on government-funded research and development grants.
- ▶ Provided a tax incentive for small start-up businesses modeled after our successful Renaissance Zone Programs through exemptions on some taxes during the first five years of operation.

PROTECTING MICHIGAN FAMILIES

My colleagues and I are working hard to increase security of your family and loved ones. We promise to continue our efforts to protect Michigan families from con-artists and unscrupulous organizations.

- ▶ Video voyeurism laws will help protect residents from individuals who use new electronic technology, including cell phones and digital cameras, to invade the privacy of others.
- ▶ Approved bi-partisan legislation to protect children from lead poisoning.
- ▶ Provided peace of mind to individuals who purchase prepaid funeral arrangements by requiring all sellers to place invested money into secure escrow accounts and allow individuals to seek refunds if they change their minds.
- ▶ Honored those who have died or were permanently disabled in the line of duty through the creation of a fund for their survivors.
- ▶ Increased the safety of college students through the creation of new anti-hazing laws.
- ▶ Updated the Minor-In-Possession of alcohol statute, allowing first-time offenders to have their initial charge expunged upon the successful completion of their probation.
- ▶ Increased penalties for forging or altering state identification cards and selling or possessing fake state IDs.

- ▶ Created new drug treatment courts as an important and necessary reform for our criminal justice system.
- ▶ Provided better regulations of unscrupulous organizations that pose as charities and solicit funds from the public.
- ▶ Protected consumers through legislation aimed at preventing senior citizens from being aggressively marketed by sweepstakes firms.
- ▶ Fire Safety First Package – protected historic communities throughout the state by requiring the installation of smoke alarms in historical buildings and multiple dwellings.
- ▶ Passed laws to ensure individuals, who manufacture, sell, possess or buy Molotov cocktails – or other such incendiary devices – can be effectively prosecuted.



PRESERVING NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate continues working on measures to protect our precious and unique natural resources, so they may be enjoyed by your family and future generations of Michigan residents.

- ▶ Protected the Great Lakes and Michigan waterways by sponsoring legislation to prohibit releasing non-native fish.
- ▶ Passed measures that will protect the state's freshwater and groundwater resources by requiring water-discharge permit holders to pay an annual fee. The bill establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System fund that will be used to monitor surface water discharges through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- ▶ Increased protection from chemical spills by requiring individuals responsible for spilling hazardous materials to report the spill to local authorities by calling 911.
- ▶ Revised the state's solid-waste management program and provided additional protection from the disposal of inappropriate waste in our landfills.
- ▶ Proposed legislation to revamp the state's recycling program, in order to increase Michigan's current recycling rate of 20 percent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tips for Michigan college savings programs and plan information are available at: www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

E-mail cards for members of the United States Armed Forces are available at: www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html

Resources for Michigan's Project Great Start, to help parents and children make reading a daily activity, are available at: www.michigan.gov/greatstart